— An additional allocation for export incentive schemes of Rs. 350 crore.

— Government back-up guarantee to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) to the extent of Rs.350 crore to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products.

— Refund of service tax to exporters on foreign agent commissions of upto 10 percent of Freight On Board (FOB) value of exports.

- **Housing** : Refinance facility of Rs. 4000 crore for the National Housing Bank by RBI.
- **Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Sector** : Refinance facility of Rs. 7000 crore for Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to support MSMEs.
- **Textiles** : An additional allocation of Rs. 1400 crore to clear the entire backlog in Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme.
- **Others** : (a) Government departments allowed to replace government vehicles within the allowed budget, in relaxation of extant economy instructions. (b) Elimination of Import Duty on Naphtha for use in the power sector. (c) Elimination of export duty on iron ore fines and reduction of duty to 5% for lumps.

In addition, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently taken a number of steps to reduce the cost of credit and improve liquidity for industry by reducing Repo rate, Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR).

Award money for bravery in different States

*127. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that varying rewards for identical honours are creating tension and frustration within the armed forces and need to be examined by his Ministry in the interest of soldiers;

(b) whether Government has so far consulted State Governments to standardise cash grants given to gallantry award winners; and

(c) if so, whether Government has laid down the minimum cash grant to be given to gallantry awardees by the State or left it to the choice of States concerned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Gallantry awards are given by the Central Government and the awardees are paid at uniform rates by the Government of India. However, in addition, various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations also provide certain benefits to the awardees, which very from state to state. Payment of grants to the awardees by various states is a matter for the respective State Governments to decide depending upon varying factors like their financial resources, etc., It is therefore, not possible for the Central Government to ensure that all the states extend these benefits to the awardees at uniform rates.